

Review of: "Reasons for diagnostic delays in Bipolar Disorder: Systematic review and narrative synthesis"

Carlo Lazzari

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Esteemed Authors,

Thank you for submitting this important study which highlights current concerns in the diagnosis of bipolar disorder.

I believe that the study is well structured in all its parts.

However, I feel the 'Methodology' section (not methods and before methods) is somewhat lacking when a method of qualitative analysis is used. What was your theoretical framework of analysis? What were the ontology, epistemology, and axiology of this study? I see you used thematic analysis of the selected papers with 'themes and sub-themes' suggesting an underlying framework for narrative qualitative analysis. This aspect needs to be specified and justified. Also, did you use free-hand or NVIVO for guiding you in this process?

Using qualitative software would have provided more strength to your study, also showing that the clustering of themes and sub-themes was supported by a complex and applicable process of analysing bits of narratives, coding them, and eventually clustering them.

Kind regards,

The reviewer.